



Philosophy and Economy

Introductory

Collection of papers which we present under the title *Philosophy and Economy* was prepared based on lectures given at the international conference *Philosophy and Economy*, held within the frame of *26th Days of Frane Petrić*, Cres, Croatia, 24 to 27 September 2017. We organised this conference to discuss anew the positions that are in different ways considering these problems, with philosophy offering a “household” for discussing the important issues that are getting more and more attention in our society. Except for the papers published in this issue, which are the third and final part, other two journals – *Filozofska istraživanja* and *Metodički ogledi* – published in Croatian the first¹ and second² collection dedicated to this topic.

To philosophically interpret the phenomenon of the world and human life, the relationship between economy and philosophy is imposed as a multi-layered, intriguing and binding theme for reflection. The governing question is how to understand the problem of economy, and the answer to this question depends on the continuation of the search for the multitude layers and shades of the possible philosophical reflection on the phenomenon of the economy.

From its ancient beginnings, and surely as a reference, we can take Plato’s and especially Aristotle’s thoughts, philosophy dedicated itself to the spectrum of topics that we now associate with economic thinking. Different periods and various social challenges with which philosophers have dealt with, albeit indirectly, stimulated problems we might put into the context of economics, whether they were thematically specific, as economic questions posed by philosophers, or they were placed in the context of some other topic. This is particularly evident in the epoch of modernity which was, among other things, based on a new model of understanding the role of the individual in the society, and brought a completely differently designed social construction. Modernity is certainly a significant period of development for Western societies, and the building thoughts of this time have become the dominant form of the thinking life of humankind.

There is no doubt that the processes within modernity are a significant inspiration for the reflection on the economy and the phenomenon of economy from a philosophical point of view. We can add that it is the situation of the modern life of human beings, which is particularly dramatic in this respect. Twentieth-century and the numerous manifestations within it (neo-colonial

¹ Tomislav Krznar: “Uvodnik: Suvremeno obrazovanje i ekonomski izazovi” [“Introductory: Contemporary Education and Economical Challenges”], *Metodički ogledi* 25 (2018) 1, pp. 9–10.

² Tomislav Krznar: “Uz temu: Filozofija i ekonomija” [“Introductory: Philosophy and Economy”], *Filozofska istraživanja* 38 (2018) 3, pp. 457–458.

conquests, world wars, various forms of totalitarian movements, Cold War, genocidal conflicts, destruction of the natural environment, the emergence of multinational corporations, information and genetic revolutions, globalization, domination of the neoliberal economy, etc.) caused a breakthrough towards phenomena being global, which certainly transformed society and steered the growth of humankind towards a special direction. The beginning of the twenty-first century, especially considering the cybersphere, e.g. cyber-crime and the phenomenon of artificial intelligence, certainly confirm these assumptions and opens up an abundance of new questions.

Topics in this collection range from classical economic problems as the status of market, to the problems such as problem of knowledge, political problems in the economical context, problems of methodology, and problems of spirituality. We tried to provide a section of topics that were exhibited and discussed at the *Days of Frane Petrić* conference that represent the whole spectrum, and we tried to discuss the present issues to open them up for the possibility of new approaches in economics discussions since we consider them to be an extremely important topic.

We hope that we have demonstrated the strength of philosophical thought in all its variety and interest in the real problems of human life.

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